

# OUTGOING MESSAGE

Approved For Release 2005/06/13 : CIA-RDP78S01932A000100010023-2

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CIA/OCI/WH12 740205

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

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MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

051739Z CIA/WHSS

22946

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ROUTING

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ITEM NO: 3

DATE: 5 JAN 74

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER EBAN INDICATES AGREEMENT ON DISEN-  
GAGEMENT NOT LIKELY BEFORE END OF JANUARY

ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTER EBAN BELIEVES A COALITION  
GOVERNMENT CAN BE RECONSTITUTED WITH A PARLIAMENTARY MANDATE  
FOR TERRITORIAL COMPROMISE. HE HAS INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT  
THE PROCESS OF REORGANIZATION--WHICH HE BELIEVES WILL TAKE A  
MONTH--MUST PRECEDE ANY AGREEMENT ON DISENGAGEMENT.

DURING A WIDE-RANGING DISCUSSION WITH AMBASSADOR  
KEATING ON JANUARY 4, EBAN EXPRESSED HIS CONFIDENCE IN THE  
GOVERNMENT'S ABILITY TO REBUILD THE RULING COALITION AND CONTINUE  
ITS NEGOTIATION POLICY DESPITE THE ELECTION GAINS OF THE RIGHT-

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State Department review completed

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WING LIKUD. HE CLAIMED THAT THE LABOR ALIGNMENT HAD LOST MOST OF ITS VOTES NOT TO THE RIGHT BUT TO FAR-LEFT PARTIES COMMITTED TO PEACE, AND THAT LIKUD'S GAINS WERE ATTRIBUTABLE TO GENERAL SHARON'S PERSONAL APPEAL AS WELL AS LIKUD'S OPPOSITION TO THE CONDUCT OF THE WAR.

AT THE SAME TIME, EBAN NOTED THAT LIKUD HAS BEGUN TO MOUNT A CAMPAIGN AGAINST SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS TOWARD DISENGAGEMENT BEFORE A NEW GOVERNMENT IS FORMED. ALTHOUGH CLAIMING THAT THIS WILL NOT INFLUENCE THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY, EBAN EMPHASIZED THAT A DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT WOULD HAVE TO BE RATIFIED BY THE NEW GOVERNMENT; HE THUS SEEMED TO IMPLY THAT, AT LEAST PARTIALLY BECAUSE OF LIKUD'S INFLUENCE, NO DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT COULD BE CONCLUDED BEFORE THE APPROXIMATELY MONTH-LONG PROCESS OF GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION WAS COMPLETED. NOTING THAT THE DISENGAGEMENT TALKS SHOULD CONTINUE THROUGHOUT THE MONTH OF JANUARY, EBAN SAID THAT HE BELIEVED THE FOREIGN MINISTERS WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TO CONVENE AGAIN IN GENEVA AT THE END OF THE MONTH TO DISCUSS THE NEXT PROCEDURAL STAGES.

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THE EGYPTIANS, BY CONTRAST, HAVE BEEN TALKING ■■ IN  
TERMS OF A MID-JANU■■■■ARY DEADLINE FOR DISENGAGEMENT; ALTHOUGH  
THE ■■DIFFERENCE IN TIMETABLES MAY BE A MATTER OF JUST A FEW  
WEEKS, ANY ISRAELI RELUCTANCE TO CONCLUDE AN AGREEMENT BEFORE  
THE END OF JANUARY COULD AFFECT EGYPT'S READINESS TO CONTINUE  
THE TALKS. [REDACTED] 25

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